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11/03/2006

Richard D. Fladung STRASBURGER & PRICE, LLP 1404 McKinney, Suite 2200 Houston, TX 77010 H055010.0035US1 3844

DANG, HOANG C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) 10/807.091 BOURGOYNE ET AL. Office Action Summary Examiner Art Unit Hoang Dang 3672 -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS. WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply end will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply with by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2006. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the ments is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 43,44,46,48-54,56-61,64-68,70-78 and 88-98 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 43.44.46.48-54.56-61.64-68. 70-78 and 88-98 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) Ø objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abevance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to, See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s)

U.S. Petert and Tredemark Office PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/25/2006.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Office Action Summary

Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20061015

Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

6) Other: _

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

DETAILED ACTION

Page 2

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

 A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 30, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

 The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- Claim 90 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Harrison (US 3,638,721) (see figure 3) or Williams et al (US 5,662,181) (see figure 3).

It is noted that a preamble, an intended use, or an "adapted" phrase is given no patentable weight in an apparatus claim. The system or housing of Harrison or Williams et al is capable of being positioning above a portion of a marine riser as recited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

 The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 89, 90 and 92-98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the April 1998 Offshore Drilling with Light Weight Fluids Joint Industry Project Presentation (reference II on PTO-1449 filed 5/7/2004) (herein after "Reference II) in view of Harrison (US 3,638,721) or vice versa.

Reference II discloses a method of drilling an offshore well with lightweight fluids. On page C-9, it discloses the use of a rotating head at the top of a riser without telescopic joint.

Reference II does not disclose the structure of the rotating head. Harrison '721 discloses a method and apparatus for drilling an offshore well from a floating vessel as that of Reference II. However, Harrison teaches using a rotating head 22 including a housing 42 that rotatably supports a removable seal member 40 and has an opening 60 for returning drilling fluid to the floating vessel through a flexible pipe 35. The rotatable seal member 40 is movable with an inner member 41 to sealably engage a rotatable drill string. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use of a rotating head having a structure as claimed in the Reference II in view of the teaching of Harrison.

Alternatively, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a riser in Harrison and locate the rotating head 22 above the riser as claimed in view of the teaching of Reference II.

With respect to claims 89 and 92, the "inner member", "radially outwardly disposed outer member", "bearings", "seal" and "housing" as recited do not distinguish from elements (41), (43), (44a), (40) and (42) respectively of the rotating control head of Harrison. It is noted that the uppermost portion of bearing element 41 is located radially inward of the radially outer portion of retainer plate 43.

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As further for claim 89, it is noted none of the bearings 44a that are introduced in line 8 are in contact with the housing 42 as recited in lines 11-12.

6. Claims 43, 44, 48-54, 56-61, 64-68, 70-78, 88 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reference II in view of Harrison '721 or vice versa as applied to claims 89, 90 and 92-98 above, and further in view of Leach (US 4,813,495).

Reference II, as modified by Harrison (or vice versa), discloses the invention as claimed except that the rotating head of Harrison does not include a "pressure relief mechanism". Leach teaches providing a rotating head with a pressure relief mechanism to permit the drilling mud returns to be dumped in the event of an emergency (column 3, lines 30-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the rotating head of Reference II as modified by Harrison or vice versa with a pressure relief mechanism in view of the teaching of Leach for the advantage pointed out above.

As for claims 66, 67, 71, 72 and 90, Leach also teaches providing valves 52, 54 & 58 to the rotating head so that the flow of mud returns can be effectively controlled (column 3, lines 12-16).

7. Claims 44, 73, 75 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reference II in view of Harrison '721 or vice versa as applied to claims 89, 90 and 92-98 above, and further in view of Leach (US 4,813,495) as applied to claims 43, 44, 48-54, 56-61, 64-68, 70-78, 88 and 91 above, and further in view of Streich et al (US 5,314,015).

The pressure relief mechanism 59 of Leach is not disclosed as a rupture disk. However, it is well known in the art to use a rupture disk to relieve pressure because of its simplicity as evidenced by Streich et al (see column 17, lines 12-16). To provide Reference II as modified by

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Harrison or vice versa and Leach with a pressure relief means 59 in the form of a rupture disk would have been obvious in view of the teaching of Streich et al for the advantage pointed out above.

 Claim 46, 89, 92 and 98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reference II in view of Williams et al (US 5.662.181) or Murray et al (US 4.175.186).

Reference II discloses a method of drilling an offshore well with lightweight fluids. On page C-9, it discloses the use of a rotating head at the top of a riser without telescopic joint.

Reference II does not disclose the structure of the rotating head. However, either Williams et al '181 (see figure 3) or Murray et al '186 (see figures 1-7) disclose a rotating head including a housing that rotatably supports a removable assembly that includes an inner member, a radially outwardly disposed outer member, a plurality of bearings interposed between the inner and outer members in order to facilitate removably mounting the bearing assembly in the housing while drilling or servicing the well (column 2, lines 36-42 in Williams et al or column 6, lines 1-4 in Murray et al). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use of a rotating head having a structure as claimed in the Reference II in view of the teaching of Williams et al for the advantages pointed out above.

Double Patenting

9. Claims 43, 44, 48-54, 56-61, 64-68, 70-78 and 88 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,092 or claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,982 in view of Leach (US 4,813,495). Leach teaches providing a rotating head with a pressure relief mechanism to permit

returns to be dumped in the event of an emergency (column 3, lines 30-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the invention as defined by claims 1-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,092 or claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,982 with a pressure relief mechanism in view of the teaching of Leach for the advantage pointed out above.

- 10. Claims 89-98 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,092 or claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,982. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 89-98 are broader and therefore read on the invention as defined by claims 1-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,092 or claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,982.
- 11. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., In re Berg, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); In re Goodman, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); In re Longt, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); In re Van Ormum, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); In re Vogel, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and In re Thorington, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Drawings

12. Figure 3A should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art— because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR

1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR

1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7028. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:15-5:45 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hoang Dang Primary Examiner Art Unit 3672 "*USAQUEA erd (089 (01-09)
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Complete if Known 10/807,091 Application Number Filing Date March 23, 2004 First Named Inventor Darryl A. Bourgoyne Group Art Unit 3672 Examiner Name Hoang C. Dang

65501.0050

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Document Number Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear MM-DD-YYY Number-Kind-Code US - 3,405,763 10-1968 Pitts, et al US - 3,421,580 01-1969 Fowler, et al. US - 3,443,643 05-13-1969 Marvin R. Jones Col. 3. Ins. 53-63: Col. 4, Ins. 8-18' see 5S below US - 3,583,480 US - 3,638,721 06-1971 John Regan Otto R. Harrison See 6/26/2001 IPER for PCT/GB00/00726; Fig. 2; see 5L, 5O, 5P, 5Q, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W below US - 3.827.511 08-06-1974 Marvin R. Jones See 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W below US - 3,847,215 11-1974 Herd US - 3,924,678 US - 4,046,191 12-1975 Ahlstone Robert Arthur Neath 09-06-1977 04-17-1979 See 5U, 5V, 5W below James F. Amold Edwin G. Murray, et al. US - 4.149.603 See 5U below US - 4,157,186 US - 4,313,054 06-05-1979 See 5U. 5V below Richard M. Martini 01-1982 US - 4,353,420 US - 4,355,784 10-1982 Miller 10-26-1982 See 5U, 5V below Lester L. Cain US - 4,440,232 04-1984 Joseph L. LeMoine Mammohan S. Kalsi US - 4,484,753 11-27-1984 US - 4,509,405 04-1985 H. John Bates US - 4,540,053 US - 4,597,448 09-1985 Baugh, et al. Benton F. Baugh 07-01-1986 US - 4.626, 135 12-02-1986 Joseph R. Roche See 11/29/2004 ĖD European Pat. Office Action for Application No. 00906522.8; see 7/22/2005 Norway Pat. Office Action of Application No. 20013952; See 6/26/2001 IPER for

Attorney Docket Number

Examiner	/Hoang Dang/ (09/17/2006)	Date	10/15/2006
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information untest it contains a valid CMB control nur Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE 10/807.091 Application Number STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Filing Date March 23, 2004 First Named Inventor Darryl A. Bourgoyne (Use as many sheets as necessary) Group Art Unit 3672 Examiner Name Hoang C. Dang Sheet of Attorney Docket Number 65501.0050

		U.	S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	
				see 5A 5G, 5I, 5J, 5L, 5M, 5O, 5P, 5Q below
HD	US - 4,736,799	04-1988	Ahistone	
	US 4,813,495	03-21-1989	Colin P. Leach	See 11/1/2004 Norway Patent Office Action for Patent Application No. 20003950; see 5T below
	US - 4,832,126	05-23-1989	Joseph R. Roche	
	US - 5,163,514	11-17-1992		See Col. 1, Lns. 44-51; Col. 2, In: 62 to Col. 3 In: 57; and Figs 1 & 2 see 5B below
	US - 5.195.754	03-23-1993	Lannie Dietie	
	US - 5.230,520		Lannie Dietle, et al.	
	US - 5,251,869	12-12-1993	Benny M. Mason	
	US - 5,325,925	07-1994	Smith, et al.	
	US - 5,348,107	09-1994	Thomas F. Bailey, et al.	
	US - 5,607,019	03-1997	Kent	
1	US - 5.662,171	09-02-1997	James D. Brugman, et al.	
	US - 5,662,181	09-02-1997	John R. Williams	See YYYY, 5L, 5M, 5N, 5O, 5P, 5Q, 5U, 5V, 5X below; the whole document
	US - 5.671.812	09-1997	Bridges	
	US - 5,678,829	10-21-1997	Mammohan S. Kalsi, et al.	
	US - 5,738,358	04-14-1998	Mammohan S. Kalsi, et al.	
	US - 5,823,541	10-20-1998	Lannie Dietle, et al.	
	US - 5,873,576	02-23-1999	Lannie Deitle, et al.	
	US - 5,944,111	08-1999	Bridges	
	US - 6,007,105	12-28-1999	Lannie Dletle, et al.	
	US - 6,016,880	01-2000	Hali, et al.	
	US - 6,036,192	03-14-2000	Lannie Deltle, et al.	
	US - 6,102,673	08-2000	Mott, et al.	
1/2	US - 6,109,348	08-2000	Caraway	
V	US - 6,109,618	08-29-2000	Lannle L. Dietle	
HD	US - 6,129,152	10-10-2000	Hosie, et al.	Col. 10, in. 22-Col. 12, in. 31; Figs. 1 & 2; see YYYY, 5X below

Examiner Signature	/Hoang Dang/ (09/17/2006)	Date Considered	10/15/2006

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Application Number	10/807,091
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filling Date	March 23, 2004
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	First Named Inventor	Darryl A. Bourgoyne
	Group Art Unit	3672
	Examiner Name	Hoang C. Dang
Sheet 3 of 6	Attorney Docket Number	65501.0050

			S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	
	US - 6,138,774 ·	10-31-2000	Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr., et al.	See Figs & claims 1-3, noting bearing assembly 60 located in subsea apparatus above a borehote; see 5C, 5F below
L HDÌ	US - 6,202,745	03-2001	Reimert, et al.	
	US - 6,227,547	05-08-2001	Lannie Dietle, et al.	
	US - 6,230,824	05-2001	Peterman, et al.	
	US - 6,354,385	03-12-2002	Ford, et al.	
	US - 6,457,529	10-01-2002	lan Douglas Calder, et al.	See 5X below
	US - 6,470,975	10-29-2002	Bourgoyne, et al.	See ZZZZ, 5C, 5X below
	US - 6,478,303	11-12-2002	Radcliffe	
	US - 6,547,002	04-15-2003	Balley, Thomas F., et al.	See 5X below
	US - 6,554,016	04-29-2003	Joseph Kinder	
	US - 6,702,012	07-03-2003	Batley, Thomas F., et al.	See 5X below
	US - 6,732,804	05-2004	Hosle, et al.	
	US - 6,749,172 B2	06-15-2004	Joseph Kinder	
	US - 6,843,313	12-13-2001	Hult	
	US - 6,913,092	07-2005	Darryl Bourgoyne	
	US - 7,004,444	02-28-2006	Joseph Kinder	
	US - 7,040,394	05-06-2004	Bailey, Thomas F., et al.	Figs. 1, 7a, 7b, 8; see YYYY, 5X below
	US - 7,080,685 B2	01-06-2005	Bailey, Thomas F., et al.	Sec 5X below
	US - 2001-0050185	12-13-2001	lan Douglas Calder	Pg. 2, In. 15, ¶17-In. 24; Fig. 2; see YYYY, ZZZZ below
	US - 2003/0102136	06-05-2003	Nelson, et al.	
	US - 2003/0106712-A1	06-12-2003	Darryl Bourgoyne	
\perp	US - 2004/0238175	12-2004	Wade, et al.	
	US - 2005/241833 A1	03-11-2005	Thomas F. Bailey	
₩	US - 2005/0151107	07-14-2005	Shu	
	US - 2006/0102387 A1	05-18-2006	Darryl A. Bourgoyne, et al.	
HD	US - 2006/0108119A1	05-25-2006	Thomas F. Balley, et al.	See 5X below

Examiner	/Hoang Dang/ (09/17/2006)	Date	10/15/2006
Signature	/ Hoang Dang/ (03/11/2000)	Considered	10/15/2006

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Application Number	10/807,091	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	March 23, 2004	
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	First Named Inventor	Darryl A. Bourgoyne	
	Group Art Unit	3672	
	Examiner Name	Hoang C. Dang	
Sheet of 6	Attorney Docket Number	65501.0050	

Examiner	Cita No.	Foreig	n Patent Document		Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant
Inditials*	No.'	Country	Code 1 * Number * Kind	Code lifering	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
HD		CA	2363132	A1	09-08-2000	Darryl A. Bourgoyne, et al.	See US - 6,470,975
		CA	2447196	A1	04-30-2004	Thomas F. Bailey, et al.	See US - 7,040,394
Ŀ		GB	2394741	A	05-05-2004	Thomas F. Bailey, et al.	See US - 7,040,394
		EP	0290250	A2	11-09-1988	Conoco, Inc.	Col. 5, Ins. 1-65; Fig. 2; see 5B below and US - 4,813,495
		EP	0290250	А3	11-09-1988	Conoco, Inc.	See attached European Search Report for Appin. EP 88 30 4057 completed 08-22- 1989 and US - 4,813,495
\perp		AU	199927822	B2	09-10-1999	Williams Tool Co., Inc.	See US - 6,138,774
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Substitute for form 1499A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)			T	Complete if Known
			Application Number	10/807,091
			Filing Date	March 23, 2004
			First Named Inventor	Darryl A. Bourgoyne
			Group Art Unit	3672
			Examiner Name	Hoang C. Dang
Sheet 5	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	65501.0050

			TENT RELATED APPLICATIONS	
Exr Initials	APPLICATION NO.	ATTY, DOCKET NO.	Status or Patentee	Date of Filing or Issue
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO	Complete If Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Application Number	10/807,091
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	March 23, 2004
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	First Named Inventor	Darryl A. Bourgoyne
	Group Art Unit	3672
	Examiner Name	Hoang C. Dang
Sheet of 6	Attorney Docket Number	65501,0050

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Examiner	/Hoang Dang/ (09/17/2006)	Date	10/15/2006
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